

REMARKS

By the present amendment, section titles have been added in the specification.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 7 and 10. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10 has been canceled and claims 8 and 11 have been amended to depend on claim 1 instead of claim 7.

Further, claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended to replace “and/or” by the expression “at least one of... and...”

Also, claim 1 has been amended to delete reference numeral “(5)” and claim 4 has been amended to insert an accidentally omitted “wherein.”

In claim 6, the expression introduced by “such as” has been deleted and introduced into a new dependent claim 13.

Also, claim 6 has been amended to replace “a metal from group VIII...or a mixture of such metals” by “metals from group VIII and mixtures of metals from group VIII.”

Claims 14-29 have been added.

New independent claims 14 and 15 correspond to the subject matter of claims 1, 7 and 11 and claims 1, 4, 5 and 12, respectively, rewritten in independent form, claims 16-23 correspond to claims 2-6, 8-9 and 13, respectively, but are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 14, and claims 24-29 correspond to claims 2-3, 6, and 8-9 and 13, respectively, but are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 15.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14-15 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to as lacking section titles.

Section titles have been added in the specification as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 are objected to on the ground that the expression “and/or” is improper.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended to replace “and/or” by the expression “at least one of... and...” as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 6,378,297 to Ito et al. (“Ito”) in view of US 2004/0065078 to Schafer-Sindlinger (“Schafer”).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7 and of claim 10, which is indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection is moot and that claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-13 are immediately allowable.

Further, it is noted that claims 14 and 15 recite the subject matter of claims 11 and 12, respectively, which are indicated as allowable in the Office Action, so that claims 14-29 are immediately allowable.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Amendment
U.S. Appl. No. 10/541,548
Attorney Docket: 052776

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 502759.

Respectfully submitted,

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